

REMARKS

Claims 9, 17 and 23-25 are now pending. The applicant thanks the Examiner for the detailed remarks and suggestions presented in the Office Action mailed 6 August 2008. The application has been amended in response thereto. Based on the objections raised in the Office Action, two sheets of replacement drawings are transmitted herewith, the specification is amended and the abstract is amended.

The Office Action identified numerous concerns regarding claim construction and compliance of the claims under Section 112. Accordingly several claims have been canceled and other claims are amended. The amendments also address the art rejections under Section 102 and Section 103 based on U.S. 5,966,695 (Melchione) alone or in combination with U.S. 2002/0188584 (Ghannam). In view of the Examiner's remarks concerning claim construction and the amendment to claim 9, it is submitted that the claims are now properly directed to novel and non-obvious subject matter.

Claim 9 is now directed to a system including multiple functions relating to production, and a central access device comprising mechanisms for providing a uniform, central access to all data sources and uniform visualization of the data in the data sources. Further, a restricted access administration device provides role-based access for each of multiple users so that each user is enabled to access data from predetermined devices without being able to access data of other devices. The central access device also includes a visualization device having a plurality of portal modules enabling data fetched from different devices to be viewed simultaneously in a visualization window.

It is submitted that, based on the Examiner's remarks, each of the claims as now presented fully satisfies the requirements of Section 112 and defines allowable subject matter.

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Conclusion

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any appropriate fees due in connection with this paper, including the fees specified in 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 (c), 1.17(a)(1) and 1.20(d), or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 19-2179.

Respectfully submitted,

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Enclosure: Two sheets of Replacement Drawings